

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. Applicants elect with traverse Group I (claims 1-23) for examination on the merits. Rejoinder of claims 27-32 of Group II is requested upon an indication of the allowance of a product claim. With regard to the requirement for an election of species, (3) M439 is elected. Claims 1-23 read on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a further patent application.

Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute an undue burden. In particular, the claims of Groups I and III should be examined in the same application. Thus, claims 24-32 should not be withdrawn from consideration. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application.

Furthermore, under the Commissioner's Notice of March 26, 1996 (1184 OG 86) implementing the Federal Circuit's decisions of *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (1995) and *In re Brouwer*, 37 USPQ2d 1663 (1996), Applicants request rejoinder of process claims upon an indication that a product claim is allowable.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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